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Department of Health and Family Services

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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HI-LIGHTS AND SIRENS Memo Series 00-01

February 2000

TO: Ambulance Service Providers
Ambulance Service Medical Directors
EMS Training Centers
First Responder Organizations
EMS Coordinators
EMS Advisory Board
Emergency Physicians Advisory Committee
Paramedic Systems of Wisconsin

FROM: Bureau of EMS and Injury Prevention
Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services Systems Section

RE: Miscellaneous Updates



IN MEMORIUM

Dean Stueland, M.D. passed away on January 7, 2000 at St. Joseph Hospital, Marshfield. Dr. Stueland touched so many lives throughout the state with his involvement with EMS, the American Heart Association, ACEP and the National Farm Medicine Center as well as through his clinical practice.

He was an active emergency physician, practicing at St. Joseph Hospital, Marshfield. His death came as a shock to those who knew and worked with Dean in his endeavors to improve EMS in Wisconsin. The Stueland family has requested that you share your favorite memory or story of Dean with them for the Stueland Memory Book. Please send your memories to the family at their home at 7610 McLean Street, Hewitt, WI 54441 or e-mail to stueland@tznet.com, or send to the EMS Systems Section at P. O. Box 2659, Madison, WI 53701-2659 and we will forward them to the family.



LICENSE RENEWAL NOTICES

First Responder Defibrillation Certification renewal information was sent to all First Responders - Defibrillation and Squad Coordinators at the end of January. Renewal applications are due back to the EMS Systems Section by April 1, 2000.

License renewals and information will be sent to all EMTs, Intermediates, Paramedics and ambulance service providers in April 2000. To receive your renewal information in a timely manner, make sure that any address change (since receiving your last license) has been reported to the EMS Section.

Additionally, new licensees will continue to have licenses issued through June 30, 2000 until renewal notices have been sent. These individuals will be sent a renewal notice in April and must renew their licenses at that time. Persons applying for licensure after renewal notices have been sent will be issued licenses expiring June 30, 2002 and will not have to go through the renewal process until that date.



TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE 2000 LICENSE RENEWAL

The EMS Systems Section is receiving many calls from individuals and ambulance service providers asking about training requirements for the 2000 license renewal (for licenses that expire 6/30/2000).

To meet the 2000 license renewal requirements, training must be completed after 7/1/1998 and before 7/1/2000. When you completed your National Registry exam is not a factor for license renewal. Information regarding persons who do not complete refresher training within that time period will be included with renewal notices.

If you complete your **initial** Basic, Intermediate or Paramedic training between 7/1/1998 and 6/30/2000, you need no additional training to renew your license.

If you complete an initial Paramedic training course within those dates, that course will work as your refresher course for Intermediate and/or Basic license renewals. Likewise, if you complete an initial Intermediate course within those dates, it will serve as your Basic refresher.

If you complete the Intermediate – Enhanced course between 7/1/1998 and 6/30/2000, you need no additional training to renew your license.

If you have questions about training requirements, contact Joanne Herfel at (608) 266-0472 or via e-mail at herfejl@dhfs.state.wi.us.





CHANGES TO THE CONTRACT PROVISION OF THE CAREGIVER BACKGROUND CHECK LAW

There is new information regarding ambulance services having contractual relationships or agreements with entities (hospitals, nursing homes, etc.) covered by the language in Wis. Stats. 50.065. The language in s.50.065, Stats. changed with the passage of the budget bill, 1999 Wisconsin Act 9, and no longer requires caregiver background checks for those ambulance services who have contracts with covered entities.

Before the passage of Act 9 the statutes said that an entity (hospitals, nursing homes, etc.) could not hire or contract with persons who would be under the entity's control, and who would have access to clients, if the entity knew or should have known the person had an unsatisfactory background. The definition of a "caregiver" in Chapter HFS 12 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code (basically) repeated those provisions. Now the statutory "caregiver" definition specifically excludes EMTs while the prohibition against hiring or contracting with someone who has an unsatisfactory background applies to "caregivers."

This statutory change, however, does not exempt EMTs from being subject to background checks pursuant to the s. 146.50 (6), Stats. requirement that in order to be eligible for EMT licensure, a person "subject to s.111.321, 111.322, and 111.335, not have an arrest or conviction record" that is substantially related to the duties of an EMT.



THE NEW EMT APPLICATIONS & DRIVING RECORDS

The new EMT License applications sent to you in November 1999 include questions regarding an applicant's driving record.

This information is being requested because certain crimes may only appear on your driving record. Examples of such crimes are s.940.25, Stats., injury by intoxicated use of a vehicle; s.346.62, Stats., reckless driving; or s.346.63, Stats., operating under the influence of an intoxicant or other drug. Convictions for these types of crimes may be substantially related to the duties of being an EMT. See s.146.50(6)(a)1, Stats.

If you answer yes to the first question on the EMT application (revised 10/99) because of traffic violations, you should submit a copy of your driving record with your application. A driving record can be requested from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT), Driver's License Records, 4802 Sheboygan Ave., Madison WI 53702. The cost is \$3.00 per record. Make your check payable to the Wisconsin DOT.



CHECK OUT THE NEW WEBSITE

There is new information and a new look to the Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services homepage and subsequent information. Check it out at http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/DPH_EMSIP/index.htm and add this new address to your "favorites". While this new site does not offer all the information that appeared at the old address however most information will be revised and added back as links from this page in the near future.



EMS FUNDING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATE

The fiscal year 2000 formula payments for the EMS Funding Assistance Program were made at the end of December. Your ambulance service or your identified municipality should have received these checks by now. Please notify Nicky Anders at (608) 266-0737 if the check has not yet been received.

These payments are the formula payment for the period July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000, or FY2000. A report of expenditures for this money and other FY2000 payments will be due in December 2001.

A final payment for fiscal year 1999 (FY1999) will be processed soon. A report of expenditures for that check and the formula check for FY1999 (paid November 1998) will be due in December 2000.



WEMSIS PROGRAM UPDATE

WEMSIS Development

In accordance with the 2000 - 2001 EMS State Plan, the Data & Research Committee met recently to develop its workplan for the WEMSIS project. To date, there are approximately 200 services that have received the latest WEMSIS software program, ALS version 5.82. All services that entered their EMS runs on the BLS program, (3.5 version) should upgrade with the 5.82, as this program is a more comprehensive, enhanced program, which runs in a windows environment. (Those services who received the 5.8 version and require the 5.82 for recent "bug fixes" will be contacted for distribution of the 5.82 version.) Requests to receive the latest version can be made by calling Linda Watson at 608/261-9437.

Network Program:

Since many services are forming computer local area network (LAN) capacities, we are finalizing a network program of WEMSIS. Services interested in pilot testing the software are asked to contact the EMS office.

Exporting Data to the State EMS Office:

The next step to planning WEMSIS is the collection of data. To facilitate this step, WEMIS users are asked to submit their data upon request (by the EMS Systems Section) or when 500 records have been entered, whichever comes first.

WEMSIS User group being formed

Persons who are proficient with Microsoft Access Visual Basic 97 programming are invited to take part in a WEMSIS user group by contacting Linda Watson or Mark DeGuire. This group will look into expanded usage of the program, including a billing module and expanded reports.

Program Evaluation

The goal of the WEMSIS program is to "map out" WEMIS users by degree of usage at the March 2000 Data & Research Committee meeting. The first run of data is expected to reach distribution to all EMS data stakeholders by September 1, 2000.





EMS - NEW CENTURY, NEW HOPE

MAY 14 - 20, 2000

EMS Week is observed annually during the third week of May and each year The American College of Emergency Physicians provides a kit for planning, coordinating and promoting EMS Week activities. These kits and information will be available to download from the Internet in early February. Their address is <http://www.acep.org/emsweek/emsweek.htm>. A limited number of kits will be available by request from the EMS Systems Section.



THE BUREAU OF EMS AND INJURY PREVENTION MOVES

The Bureau has moved to new quarters in Room 118, 1 West Wilson Street in downtown Madison. Follow these directions should you need to visit our offices.

Coming from the West, South or Southwest:

1. From the beltline (Hwys. 12 & 18), take the John Nolen Drive exit into Madison.
2. Take John Nolen Drive past the Dane Co. Coliseum/Expo Center and across Lake Monona Bay.
3. After you cross the bay, you have 2 options:
 - a) If you want easy, long term parking, get in the right lane and veer to the right as you approach the Monona Terrace Convention Center and go up the ramp to the parking area. Go all the way to the top of the ramp and park behind the largest building (11 stories tall). Our offices are on the East Side of the building in Room 118.
 - b) If you want to drop something off, there is 30 minute parking right in front of the building. For this option, stay on John Nolen Drive, go under the Monona Terrace Convention Center and take a left at the second stop light onto East Wilson Street. Proceed 0.5 miles to 1 W. Wilson.

Coming from the East or North, or Northeast:

1. Take East Washington Ave. (Hwy. 151) into town until you reach the 600 block (about 5 miles).
2. Take a left turn on Hwy 151 truck route and go 3 blocks & turn right at the stop light onto E. Wilson Street. Proceed 0.5 miles to 1 W. Wilson.
3. As you approach 1 W. Wilson Street you have 2 options:
 - a) There is 30 minute parking in front of the building.
 - b) For long term parking, get in the left lane, go past the building and take a left into the Monona Terrace Convention Center parking lot. Go all the way to the top of the ramp and park behind the largest building (11 stories tall). Our offices are on the East Side of the building in Room 118.

Our mailing address and phone numbers remain the same. Call (608) 266-1568 for more information.





BASIC CONCEPTS IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO TERRORISM

Wisconsin Emergency Management and the Wisconsin Technical College System are offering the National Fire Academy developed course entitled Emergency Response to Terrorism - Basic Concepts throughout the state in 2000. Please review the schedule below and contact your County Emergency Management Director for course applications.

This 2-day course is designed to prepare first responder personnel to take the appropriate course of action at the scene of a potential terrorist incident. The course will provide students with a general understanding and recognition of terrorism, defensive considerations such as biological, nuclear, incendiary, chemical, and explosive (B-NICE), as well as command and control issues associated with criminal incidents. When an incident occurs, the students will be able to recognize and implement self-protective measures; secure the scene; complete appropriate notifications to local, State and Federal authorities; and assist in completing a smooth transition from emergency to recovery and termination operations.

Representatives from the emergency medical service community are encouraged to attend. Class size is limited to 30 and registration is on a first-come, first served basis.

These "**Emergency Response to Terrorism- Basic Concepts**" courses are scheduled for statewide recruitment. The course may also be available in your community by request. For more information please contact your County Emergency Management Director.

February 23-24, 2000	Green Bay
March 25-26, 2000	LaCrosse
April 15-16, 2000	Superior
May 6-7, 2000	Platteville
June 3-4, 2000	Appleton
June 6-7, 2000	Eau Claire
June 24-25, 2000	Waukesha

